



**CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM**

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February 10, 1999

Dino Petrucci, President
Loren Freeman, Local Landowner
Madera County Farm Bureau
1102 So. Pine Street
Madera, CA 93637-8923

Dear Mr. Petrucci and Mr. Freeman:

I received your petition and letter dated January 27, 1999 stating your opposition to the purchase of land for the Madera Ranch Groundwater Banking project. CALFED is aware of the many concerns regarding conjunctive use projects and has taken a number of steps to address these issues.

CALFED initiated a groundwater outreach program in 1996 to help identify and address stakeholder concerns about groundwater use and management with special emphasis on conjunctive use projects. We published a Groundwater Outreach Program status report on November 12, 1997 that included a summary of stakeholder concerns, as well as a set of draft principles for implementing conjunctive use projects. We have continued to develop these principles, which include full recognition of local water needs and landowner water rights. We believe that successful conjunctive use projects have to be locally developed and have continuous local participation. We would be very supportive of any local efforts to make the Madera Ranch project a locally owned and operated facility that would result in improving water supply reliability.

We have recently assembled a Conjunctive Use Advisory Team to advise CALFED staff on the development and implementation of conjunctive use pilot projects. The pilot projects will be locally-driven, completely voluntary, and will be supported by CALFED only if all of the stakeholder concerns have been satisfactorily addressed. We are currently inviting proposals for pilot projects from anyone with a potential project. All pilot projects will require complete compliance with CALFED's guiding principles for conjunctive use. If you have specific questions regarding the Advisory Team or the invitation for proposals, please contact Anthony Saracino, CALFED Conjunctive Use Coordinator, at (916) 688-5807.

CALFED Agencies

California
The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

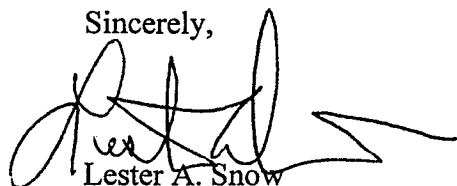
Federal
Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

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I appreciate your concerns regarding the Madera Ranch project and look forward to working with you to help improve California's water supply reliability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lester A. Snow", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lester A. Snow
Executive Director